

The Government of Andhra Pradesh has informed that they have recently recruited 106 medical officers under ISM and H. They also propose to fill up vacancies that would be caused by promotion of doctors to senior levels. They have further informed that they are taking necessary steps to elevate the status of Indian Systems of Medicine and Homoeopathy on par with the Allopathic system.

Selling Kidneys by Farmers

† 2242. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that recently farmers have sold out their kidneys in various hospitals of Delhi and Chennai at the rate of Rs. 40 to 50 thousand per kidney, in order to get rid of their financial crisis;

(b) if so, whether Government have investigated or constituted any inquiry Committee to find out the facts of this episode;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, what concrete action is proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE [DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA]: (a) to (d) No, Sir. Do not arise.

Review of Tuberculosis eradication programme

2243. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the present Government have made any review of the Tuberculosis eradication programme, with the assistance of International agencies;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government would review the functioning of the

† Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

existing programmes, according to the convenience of poor patients; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE [DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA]: (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The National TB Control Programme was reviewed in 1992 by an expert group and based on their findings Government of India evolved the Revised National TB Control Programme (RNTCP) which is at present covering about 220 million population.

A review of RNTCP was conducted jointly by Government of India, WHO, other international agencies and national experts from India in February, 2000. The review team concluded that RNTCP has been expanded rapidly over the past two years and it is being successfully implemented in the country. Patients are being accurately diagnosed and drug supply is regular and uninterrupted.

Another mid-term review of World Bank aided Revised National TB Control Programme will be conducted jointly by World Bank and Government of India in September, 2000.

The benefits of National TB Control Programme and RNTCP are being made available to all persons irrespective of their economic status. However, special efforts are being made to reach out to the poor and tribal populations, to enable them to have easy access to the benefits of the TB programmes.

Strengthening ISM and H

2244. SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have established the Deptt, of ISM and H under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare; if so, the reasons and system-wise details of its functioning;

(b) whether Government have established independent Directorate of ISM and H in various States and UTs for strengthening the system; and